

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 10, 2017, 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Anne Watson, Dona Bate, Ashley Hill, Rosie Krueger and Jean Olson. City Manager Bill Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum acted as Secretary of the meeting.

- 17-146. With the addition of a liquor license renewal (GTAN – Asiana House) to the consent agenda, the proposed agenda was approved without objection, by unanimous consent.
- 17-147. Page Guertin offered comments regarding the recent passing of Jed Guertin, and on the matter of Berlin Pond.
- City Manager Fraser announced that Sue Allen had been hired as Assistant City Manager. The Mayor added comments.
- Richard Sheir addressed the Council on the fiscal impact of multiple large projects, as well as speaking on the parking study, remote parking, and the Net Zero project.
- 17-148. Councilor Turcotte moved approval of the consent agenda, Councilor Olson seconded. Brief discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously at 5:41.
- 17-149. The Council received a presentation by Montpelier High School 9th Grade students Avery Paul and Emmett Kolber regarding the Net Zero project.
- 17-150. Ellen Cheney addressed the Council on her candidacy for the position of City Representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Board. Councilor Turcotte moved Ellen Cheney be appointed as City Representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Board. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 5:52.
- 17-151. In regards to the DEW/One Taylor Street agenda item, Councilor Bate moved the Council find that premature public discussion of the pending real estate matter could put the city at a significant disadvantage, and was seconded by Councilor Krueger. Motion carried unanimously.
- Councilor Watson moved the Council enter executive session to discuss said real estate matter, and to include the City Manager and Matthew Wheaton from DEW. Councilor Hill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 5:54.
- Councilor Watson moved the Council return to open session, Councilor Bate seconded. Motion carried unanimously at 6:30.
- 17-152. Police Chief Tony Facos read a statement on Montpelier's fair and impartial policing policy.

- 17-159. The Council discussed the awarding of the contract for the Northfield Street Utilities Project. Discussion was held with Tom McArdle, Zach Blodgett and Kurt Motyka of the Public Works Department. Councilor Bate moved the Council award the contract for the Northfield Street Utilities Project to Dubois Construction as recommended by the Director of Public Works and designation of the City Manager as the duly authorized agent to execute the contract documents and any contract change orders that may be required. Councilor Hill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 6:52.
- 17-153. Planning Director Mike Miller opened a discussion of sections 1 and 2 of the proposed zoning ordinance. John Adams and Barbara Conrey from the Planning Commission offered comments.
- Comments recommending changes to the proposal were offered by Leigh Seddon and Alan Goldman. No formal action taken.
- The Chair called a recess at 8:35. The meeting was reconvened at 8:43.
- 17-152. The Mayor opened the proposed Public Nuisance Ordinance 2nd Reading/public hearing at 8:44. Mike Miller and Fire Chief Bob Gowans came up front to participate in the discussion. Comments were offered by Kelly Weston, Dan Jones and Vicki Lane.
- Councilor Turcotte moved approval of the ordinance as presented. Councilor Watson seconded. After brief discussion, the Chair – without objection and with unanimous consent – declared the motion withdrawn. At 9:14, the public hearing was declared in recess by the Chair until the next council meeting.
- 17-154. The Council received a Net Zero/Team Bridges presentation from Jay Ancel and Vincent Appel. No formal action taken at this time.
- 17-156. There was a brief discussion regarding the possible appointment of a City Councilor as representative to the City's Investment Committee. No formal action taken.
- 17-157. Councilor Watson moved the Council set the Date, Time and Place for a Special City Meeting as June 20, 7AM-7PM at City Hall. Councilor Hill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 9:40.
- 17-158. There was discussion of the tax stabilization item (Article 3) on the proposed special city meeting warning.
- Councilor Bate moved the Council add an Article 4 "Should dogs be required to be leashed in Hubbard Park (non-binding)" to the proposed warning. Councilor Olson seconded. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.
- Councilor Watson moved the Council approve the warning as amended. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 17-161. Councilor Krueger asked that the 5:30 Council meetings be started at 6:00 instead. Brief discussion followed. Councilor Hill echoed the sentiment.

Councilor Watson gave an update on the flag contest.

Councilor Bate thanked the Council for supporting the proclamation for Bev Hill, reported on the Rotary Award.

Councilor Olson noted the coming “Downsizing” meeting and encouraged councilors to attend.

Councilor Turcotte noted the beginning of paving work, asked about a specific check written by the city, and asked about graffiti cleanup.

17-162. The Mayor reported on the Housing bond proposal in the Legislature and the authorization for TIF districts.

17-163. The City Clerk noted the upcoming quarterly tax payment deadline.

17-165. In regards to the Berlin Pond discussion, Councilor Bate moved a finding that it is important to go into executive session because the city would otherwise be at a disadvantage in discussions. Councilor Watson seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Councilor Bate moved the Council go into executive session for the aforementioned discussion, Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hearing no objection, the Mayor declared the Council returned to open session and subsequently adjourned by unanimous consent.